

AMENDMENT

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 4-7, 9, 11, 14-18, 20, 21, 23, and 26-29 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for atomically updating an original existing portion of platform firmware data, comprising:

writing updated firmware data that is to replace the original existing portion of platform firmware data to a firmware storage device in which the existing portion of firmware data are stored; and

atomically modifying firmware configuration data in the firmware storage device to indicate the updated firmware data is to be used in place of the original existing portion of platform firmware data that is being updated such that only all of the original existing portion of platform firmware data are valid prior to the atomic modification of the firmware configuration data and only all of the updated firmware data are valid after the atomic modification to the firmware configuration data.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising performing an integrity check of the updated firmware data to verify that the updated firmware data is valid.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the updated firmware data is written to the firmware storage device in a manner in which the updated firmware data is invisible to a firmware management system used to access firmware data stored on the firmware storage device until the atomic modification of the firmware configuration data has been made.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising enabling a full recovery of the original existing portion of firmware data that is to be updated during an

upgrade process in response to a system anomaly that prevents completion of the upgrade process.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising deleting the original existing portion of platform firmware after it has been upgraded.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the original existing platform firmware data and the updated firmware data respectively comprise one or more firmware files, each firmware file including header data that are modified during the update process to track a current state of that file.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the original existing platform firmware data comprising multiple firmware files and each firmware file further includes a respective data area, the method further including:

creating a first file having a header and a data area;

writing the updated firmware data as multiple files to the data area of the first file, each file that is written including a respective header and data area in which updated firmware data for that file is contained;

modifying data in headers of firmware files corresponding to the original existing portion of platform firmware data to indicate these firmware files are to be updated; and

modifying data in the header of the first file to simultaneously invalidate each of the original existing firmware files and validate each of the updated firmware files.

8 (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the firmware storage device comprises a flash memory device.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~atomically~~ updating a plurality of ~~original existing~~ platform firmware files, comprising:

creating a temporary file in a firmware storage device in which the existing platform firmware files are stored;

writing data corresponding to a plurality of updated platform firmware files comprising new versions of the plurality of ~~original existing~~ platform firmware files to the temporary file; and

~~atomically-modifying~~ platform firmware file configuration information in the platform storage device to indicate that the updated platform firmware files are to be used in place of the ~~original existing~~ platform firmware files such that only ~~all~~ of the ~~original existing~~ platform firmware files or only ~~all~~ of the updated platform firmware files are valid at any point in time during an update process.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein each platform firmware file comprises a file header and a data area in which platform firmware data corresponding to that file is written, and wherein each file header includes a plurality of state bits that are used to track a current state of each platform firmware file during the update process.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the temporary file is created by creating a file header that identifies the temporary file includes a data area that is sized to hold all of the updated platform firmware files, said data area being mapped to a memory area on a firmware storage device that is used to store the ~~original existing~~ and updated platform firmware files.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising changing a state bit in the temporary file's file header to indicate that the temporary file is invalid after data

corresponding to the updated platform firmware files are written to the data area of the temporary file.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein a file system is used to access the platform firmware files and the updated firmware files appear invisible to the file system prior to when the state bit is changed and become visible to the file system after the state bit is changed.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein each original existing platform firmware file has a name that is shared by a corresponding updated platform firmware file, further comprising:

changing the state bits in each of the original existing platform firmware files to indicate they are to be updated;

setting the state bits in each of the updated platform firmware files to indicate that they are valid,

wherein, upon becoming visible to the file system, the state bits in the file headers of the updated platform files in combination with the state bits in the original existing platform firmware files simultaneously inform the file system that the original existing platform files are invalid and the updated platform files are valid.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising performing an integrity check of the updated platform firmware files to verify that the updated firmware files are valid prior to atomically modifying the platform firmware file configuration information to indicate that the updated platform firmware files are to be used in place of the original existing platform firmware

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising enabling a full recovery of the original existing platform firmware files that are to be updated during the upgrade process in response to a system anomaly that prevents completion of the upgrade process.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising setting the state bits in each file header of the original existing platform firmware files to indicate the file is deleted after the upgrade process has been complete.

18. (Currently Amended) A machine readable media on which a plurality of machine-executable instructions are stored that when executed by a machine atomically updates an original existing portion of platform firmware data partitioned into a plurality of sets of firmware code by performing the operation of:

writing updated firmware data that is to replace the original existing portion of platform firmware data to a firmware storage device in which the existing portion of firmware data are stored; and

atomically modifying firmware configuration data in the firmware storage device to indicate the updated firmware data is to be used in place of the original portion of platform firmware data that is being updated such that only all of the original existing portion of platform firmware data are valid prior to the atomic modification of the firmware configuration data and only all of the updated firmware data are valid after the atomic modification to the firmware configuration data.

19. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 18, wherein execution of the plurality of machine instructions further performs the operation of performing an integrity check of the updated firmware data to verify that the updated firmware data is valid.

20. (Currently Amended) The machine readable medium of claim 18, wherein execution of the plurality of machine instructions further enable the machine to perform a full recovery of the original existing portion of firmware data that is to be updated during an upgrade process in response to a machine anomaly that prevents completion of the upgrade process.

21. (Currently Amended) A machine readable media on which a plurality of machine-executable instructions are stored that when executed by a machine atomically updates a plurality of original existing platform firmware files by performing the operations of:

creating a temporary file in a firmware storage device in which the existing platform firmware files are stored;

writing data corresponding to a plurality of updated platform firmware files comprising new versions of the plurality of original existing platform firmware files to the temporary file; and

atomically modifying platform firmware file configuration information in the firmware storage device to indicate that the updated platform firmware files are to be used in place of the original platform firmware files such that only all of the original platform firmware files or only all of the updated platform firmware files are valid at any point in time during an update process.

22. (Original) The machine readable media of claim 21, wherein each platform firmware file comprises a file header and a data area in which platform firmware data corresponding to that file is written, and wherein each file header includes a plurality of state bits that are used to track a current state of each platform firmware file during the update process.

23. (Currently Amended) The machine readable media of claim 22, wherein the temporary file is created by creating a file header that identifies the temporary file includes a data area that is sized to hold all of the updated platform firmware files, said data area being mapped to a memory area on a firmware storage device that is used to store the original existing and updated platform firmware files.

24. (Original) The machine readable media of claim 23, wherein execution of the plurality of machine instructions further performs the operation of changing a state bit in the file header of the temporary file to indicate that the temporary file is invalid after data corresponding to the updated platform firmware files are written to the data area of the temporary file.

25. (Original) The machine readable media of claim 24, wherein a file system is used to access the platform firmware files and the updated firmware files appear invisible to the file system prior to when the state bit is changed and become visible to the file system after the state bit is changed.

26. (Currently Amended) The machine readable media of claim 25, wherein each original existing platform firmware file has a name that is shared by a corresponding updated platform firmware file, and wherein execution of the plurality of machine instructions further performs the operations of:

changing the state bits in each of the original existing platform firmware files to indicate they are to be updated; and

setting the state bits in each of the updated platform firmware files to indicate that they are valid,

wherein, upon becoming visible to the file system, the state bits in the file headers of the updated platform files in combination with the state bits in the original

existing platform firmware files simultaneously inform the file system that the original existing platform files are invalid and the updated platform files are valid.

27. (Currently Amended) The machine readable media of claim 21, wherein execution of the plurality of machine instructions further performs the operation of performing an integrity check of the updated platform firmware files to verify that the updated firmware files are valid prior to atomically modifying the platform firmware file configuration information to indicate that the updated platform firmware files are to be used in place of the original existing platform firmware.

28. (Currently Amended) The machine readable media of claim 21, wherein execution of the plurality of machine instructions further performs the operation of enabling a full recovery of the original existing platform firmware files that are to be updated during the upgrade process in response to a system anomaly that prevents completion of the upgrade process.

29. (Currently Amended) The machine readable media of claim 22, wherein execution of the plurality of machine instructions further performs the operation of setting the state bits in each file header of the original existing platform firmware files to indicate the file is deleted after the upgrade process has been complete.